

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A set top box, comprising:
  - 2 a host system;
  - 3 a universal control logic coupled to said host system via a bus;
  - 4 a plurality of input controls coupled to said universal control logic; and
  - 5 a display coupled to said universal control logic;
- 6 wherein said host system is contained within a shielded enclosure and said universal
- 7 control logic, said input controls and said display are located outside said shielded enclosure.
- 1 2. The set top box of claim 1 wherein said input controls include a digital volume knob.
- 1 3. The set top box of claim 1 wherein said universal control logic comprises a hub, a bus
- 2 interface and a microcontroller, said bus interface coupled to said hub and said microcontroller.
- 1 4. The set top box of claim 3 wherein said bus comprises a universal serial bus.
- 1 5. The set top box of claim 3 further including a communication unit coupled to said universal
- 2 control logic which sends and receives information between the set top box and other devices.
- 1 6. The set top box of claim 5 wherein said communication unit comprises an antenna and a
- 2 transceiver, and wherein said transceiver is coupled to said antenna and said universal control
- 3 logic.

1 7. The set top box of claim 3 wherein said microcontroller includes a status flag bit associated  
2 with each input control, and said microcontroller sets a status flag when the associated input  
3 control is activated.

1 8. The set top box of claim 7 wherein said universal control logic includes an interrupt bit that  
2 is polled by said host system over said bus.

1 9. An electronics devices, comprising:  
2 a host system;  
3 a universal control logic coupled to said host system via a bus;  
4 a plurality of input controls coupled to said universal control logic; and  
5 a display coupled to said universal control logic;  
6 wherein said universal control logic formats requests over said bus to said host system to  
7 indicate a user activation of an input control and wherein said host system performs an operation  
8 associated with the user activated input control; and  
9 wherein said host system transmits data over said bus to said universal control logic and  
10 said universal control logic provides said data to said display to be shown to a user.

1 10. The electronics devices of claim 9 wherein said host system is contained within a shielded  
2 enclosure and said universal control logic is not contained within said enclosure.

1 11. The electronics device of claim 9 wherein said universal control logic includes a storage for  
2 a plurality of status flags, each flag corresponding to one of said input controls, and said universal  
3 control logic sets a status flag when a user activates an input control corresponding to said status  
4 flag.

1 12. The electronics device of claim 11 wherein said universal control logic includes an  
2 interrupt request bit that said universal control logic sets when needing service from said host  
3 system.

1 13. The electronics device of claim 9 wherein said host system sends commands to said  
2 universal control logic over said bus and said commands include a command identifier, and said  
3 universal control logic reads the command identifier to determine the type of command.

1 14. The electronics device of claim 13 wherein said command identifier comprises a command  
2 selected from the group consisting of a request for the universal control logic to indicate the status  
3 of said input controls and a command for the universal control logic to show information on said  
4 display.

1 15. The electronics device of claim 9 wherein said input controls include a volume control  
2 providing digital inputs to said universal control logic.

1 16. The electronics device of claim 15 wherein said host system includes interfaces to a  
2 speaker and a television monitor, and wherein said host system responds to an activation of the  
3 volume control by changing the volume level provided to said speaker.

1 17. The electronics devices of claim 16 wherein said host system provides volume level  
2 information to said universal control logic which uses said volume level information to show  
3 indication of said volume level on said display.

1 18. The electronics device of claim 17 wherein said universal control logic shows a graphical  
2 representation of said volume level on said display.

1 19. The electronics device of claim 17 wherein said host system also provides a signal to said  
2 television monitor, said signal being indicative of a graphical representation of said volume level to  
3 said interface.

1 20. The electronics device of claim 18 wherein said host system also provides a signal to said  
2 television monitor, said signal being indicative of a graphical representation of said volume level to  
3 said interface.